



LBJ Country



Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park and
Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site

"The Moving Wall" To Visit LBJ Park

History will be made the week of April 5- 11 when the Moving Wall, an exact, half- size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, arrives at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. Thirty years after peace talks began to end that conflict, a visible symbol of the Vietnam War will be on display in the national historical park named for our 36th president.

The Moving Wall is the inspiration of John Devitt, an Army veteran and helicopter door gunner during the war. Devitt was on hand for the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. (administered by the National Park Service). This experience in 1982 was so powerful that he and his friends decided to create a replica of the memorial so that people nationwide could share a similar experience.

First displayed in Tyler, Texas in 1984, the Moving Wall has been touring the country for almost 20 years. It is made from aluminum panels and stretches 252 feet in length. It will be erected on a platform in the Johnson Settlement, scene of Lyndon Johnson's paternal grandparents' homestead. Their original dog trot cabin (circa 1856- 1866) survives and is open sporadically for park visitors interested in learning about life during the great Texas cattle drives.



The Moving Wall travels to Johnson City from Big Spring, Texas, and will be available for viewing at no charge. A finding aid will assist those looking for particular names, which total more than 58,000. When new names are added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, they are also added to the Moving Wall at the end of its travel season. Those who wish to make a rubbing of an engraved name or names will be provided with the necessary materials. Any mementos that are left at the Moving Wall will be gathered and sent to San Jose, California, the off- season home of the Moving Wall, until such time as a museum can be built to display them.

The park is planning appropriate tributes during the week, such as guest lectures, military band concerts, book signings, and a ceremony to honor veterans. Everyone is invited to participate in this one- of- a- kind experience as we pause in our daily affairs to recognize and appreciate the cost of freedom.



State Agency On Board for Trails & Rails Program, New Tourism Package

LBJ Country is published three times per year: October, February, and June.

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Park Events

❖ The Moving Wall

April 5-11

A half-size, exact replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that has been seen by millions and has been touring the country for 20 years. In honor of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War
Johnson Settlement, Johnson City.
Free admission.

❖ The LBJ Ranch Roundup

April 24

Round up the family for a Texas-sized day of fun at the LBJ Ranch show barn. Hereford cattle, cowboys, horn branding, roping, a chuckwagon camp, live Western music, a "Kid Korral", and more. LBJ Ranch, one mile east of Stonewall. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$3.00 per person, ages 12 and younger, free.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is now working with the Trails & Rails educational partnership pioneered by Amtrak and the National Park Service. The program features a mix of information and interactive learning experiences at no charge to passengers on trains nationwide.

Planning meetings were held in November and December to initiate this new three- way partnership. The THC has committed to designing and marketing a heritage tourism- based promotional brochure about current Trails & Rails programming. There are three Amtrak trains that traverse Texas, the Sunset Limited (Beaumont to El Paso), the Texas Eagle (Texarkana to San Antonio), and the Heartland Flyer (Gainesville to Fort Worth, originating in Oklahoma City). Trails & Rails programs are a feature of the first two routes, presented by volunteers and paid staff of Amistad National Recreation Area and San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. Texas Parks and Wildlife has also expressed a strong interest in joining the program by providing staff and additional marketing expertise.

Also in the works is a prototype- - a complete packaged itinerary for travelers- - on the Texas Eagle run. Initial plans call for marketing to vacationers in San Antonio or to Texans looking for a unique getaway package. Both groups could be interested in a relaxing, informative ride to Fort Worth, perhaps with an overnight stay in Austin and maybe even a day trip to the two LBJ parks. This prototype is adaptable to the other two Texas rail routes and may even serve as a national template for the eighteen current Trails & Rails programs.

We are delighted to have another agency in the "history business" as an active participant in a lively learning experience that invigorates a traditional mode of travel. All aboard, Texas!



Photo by Wendy Papasan



Passengers on the westbound Sunset Limited train are treated to a Trails & Rails program, complete with touchable objects representing the crafts of prehistoric cultures. Volunteer and paid staffs from Amistad National Recreation Area also deliver commentary on the native flora and fauna and the colorful history of West Texas.

Park Receives Donation of Johnson, Baines Family Artifacts

The family of Lucia Johnson Alexander, President Johnson's youngest sister, has recently converted a long term loan to a gift to Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. Mrs. Alexander placed over 100 artifacts on loan to the park in the early 1970s. These include furniture, pictures, and accessories, each item having an association with a member of the Johnson or Baines families.

Mrs. Alexander passed away in 1997. In the interim, her heirs and descendants have been in touch with the park concerning these artifacts. This fall, Birge Shulman, grandson of Birge and Lucia Alexander, visited the park along with his wife Julia. During their visit he announced the family's intention to donate the artifacts to the park. Rebekah Shulman, Mrs. Alexander's daughter, made the donation in December 2003. Visitors to the park who tour the LBJ Boyhood Home will see the oval marble-top table that belonged to Rebekah Baines Johnson, the President's mother. Other family artifacts that were part of the donation include a decorative



Birge and Julia Shulman

wooden box made by Rebekah Baines Johnson for her mother for Christmas 1904, milkglass cupped hands that belonged to Rebekah Baines Johnson, and a pitcher that belonged to Eliza Bunton Johnson, the President's grandmother.

Among artifacts currently displayed in Lyndon Johnson's Reconstructed Birthplace that were part of the donation are the kitchen sampler stitched by Rebekah Baines Johnson, the mug that belonged to Grandfather Baines and the cup and saucer used by Grandfather Johnson. Also displayed are a dresser set that belonged to Cousin Mattie Johnson Compton, brass and enamel vases from

Rebekah Baines Johnson, and a family Bible belonging to Aunt Annie Baines Roseborough, Grandfather Baines' sister, that was willed to Rebekah Baines Johnson.

Mrs. Alexander, along with Mrs. Johnson, furnished the Birthplace following its reconstruction. It has as many original pieces as they could gather together and every piece of furniture tells part of the story of the heritage of our 36th president. President and Mrs. Johnson, the President's siblings, daughter Lynda, other relatives, and several friends provided birthplace furnishings. President and Mrs. Johnson donated the majority of the furnishings to the National Park Service in the 1970s.

In contrast to the original furnishings in the Birthplace, a large number of the Boyhood Home furnishings are period pieces purchased by the National Park Service. Family pieces and memorabilia were donated by President and Mrs. Johnson and extended family to complete the interior.

LBJ Boyhood Home Treated to New Wallpaper

During late summer 2003, wallpaper in two rooms in the Boyhood Home was replaced following guidelines established during the early park restoration of the house. The bedroom that Lyndon Johnson shared with his brother and the dining room were re-papered using period paper that was purchased during the 1970s restoration of the house.

A local Fredericksburg paperhanger, Jerry Farley, completed the work. A founding member of the San Antonio Paperhangers Guild, Mr. Farley was trained to hang wallpaper in the method used in the 19th to early 20th centuries. Because many homes

were built with random-width wood plank boards, the walls were uneven. Canvas or netting was stretched over the boards to bridge irregularities in the wall surface and the wallpaper was hung on the canvas.

Although the Boyhood Home wallpaper is not hung directly over wood boards, it was papered to give the appearance using a technique conceived and perfected by Mr. Farley. The finished wallpaper job, expertly crafted and pasted, appears historically accurate and will last for years to come.



Jerry Farley at work



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 U.S. Department of the Interior
 Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
 P.O. Box 329
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Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site
 P.O. Box 238
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™



Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park researches, preserves, and interprets the life and heritage of our 36th president, and in association with the adjacent Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site, provides a variety of opportunities to experience the local and regional context that shaped the last frontier president, informed his policies and programs, and defined his legacy.

Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so all may experience our heritage.



No park could run as efficiently and serve the public as well without the help of its talented volunteers. Both the state and national LBJ Parks are blessed every year with new and returning volunteers who work in every park division. Pictured here are volunteers currently serving at Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park: from left to right, Rick Taylor, Ann Taylor, Maya Ogren (seated), Betty Peters, and Clair Peters.